

Pre-Field Review and Biological Evaluation for Sensitive Plants
Sitkoh Lake Trail Reconstruction
Sitka Ranger District
Tongass National Forest

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PROJECT NAME : Sitkoh Lake Trail Reconstruction

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would fully reconstruct the entire length of Sitkoh Lake Trail from saltwater to the East Sitkoh Lake recreation cabin along the existing trail prism. Depending on the native surface, the tread will be a combination of native material, imported gravel, and boardwalk. Log stringer bridges and other failing trail structures will be reconstructed and additional drainage features such as waterbars and drain dips will be added where needed. A short (approximately ¼ mile) user created spur route between the Sitkoh Lake trail and road 75443 will also be improved by hardening the tread with gravel and boardwalk. Survey and design is scheduled for 2018 with construction to follow in 2019. The construction phase could last for more than one year and would be dependent on funding.

LOCATION: Sitkoh Bay and Sitkoh Lake, Chichagof Island, Sitka Ranger District

SENSITIVE PLANTS KNOWN: Sources include USFS NRM-TESP database, ARCTOS herbarium database.

Field surveys were conducted in portions of the project area in 2009 and 2011. No sensitive plants were documented.

Date of records search: September 11, 2017

SENSITIVE PLANT HABITAT & SENSITIVE PLANTS SUSPECTED IN THE PROJECT AREA:

A) Obtained habitat information from people familiar with the project area, project proponent, GIS existing veg layer and geology layer, aerial and satellite photo interpretation, and site visits.

Highlight or underline the following habitats that are likely to occur in the project area:

coniferous forest, deciduous forest, mixed conifer/deciduous forest, dwarf tree forest, forest edge, tall shrublands, low shrublands, rocky areas, rock outcrops, ridgetops, cliffs, serpentine, calcareous areas, gravel, scree, talus, boulder fields, seeps, wet areas, riparian areas (give channel type, if known), streambanks, waterfalls, lake margins, ponds, shallow freshwater, marshes, swamps, estuaries, sphagnum bogs, fens, heath, subalpine meadows, alpine, area dominated by moss or lichen, dry meadows, moist-wet meadows, upper beach meadows, grasslands, maritime beaches, sandy areas, other.

B) Using your knowledge of sensitive plant habitat needs, or any other sources, indicate the plants (R-10 sensitive plants highlighted below) suspected that correspond to the above habitats:

Table 1. Alaska Region sensitive plants (those suspected to occur in the project area are underlined).

<i>Aphragmus eschscholtzianus</i>	<i>Ligusticum calderi</i>
<i>Botrychium spathulatum</i>	<i>Lobaria amplissima</i>
<i>Botrychium tunux</i>	<i>Papaver alboroseum</i>
<i>Botrychium yaaxudakeit</i>	<u><i>Piperia unalascensis</i></u>
<i>Cochlearia sessilifolia</i>	<i>Platanthera orbiculata</i>
<i>Cirsium edule</i> var. <i>macounii</i>	<i>Polystichum kruckebergii</i>
<i>Cypripedium guttatum</i>	<u><i>Romanzoffia unalaschcensis</i></u>
<i>Cypripedium montanum</i>	<i>Sidalcea hendersonii</i>
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i>	<i>Tanacetum bipinnatum</i> subsp. <i>huronense</i>

DETERMINATIONS POSSIBLE PRIOR TO FIELD SURVEY
USDA Forest Service, Alaska Region (Revised Feb. 2009)

- 1) Does the evidence indicate that no sensitive plants or possible habitat exists within the project area (e.g. parking lot)?

☐ YES. Explain exactly why (insert here) and sign and date this document. BE is complete.
☒ NO. Go on to question 2.

- 2) Based on knowledge of the proposed project and the species involved, can a "no impact" statement be made?

☒ YES. Project activities will occur either on existing trail infrastructure or in closed canopy forest, which is not suitable habitat for sensitive plant species suspected to occur in or near the project area. Therefore, the project will have no impact on sensitive plants.

Biological Evaluation is complete.